

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-10 and has not added or amended any claims. Accordingly, claim 11 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,023,422 to Taniguchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,247,493 to Brown further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,545,811 to Fujimoto. The Examiner also allowed claim 11.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's allowance of claim 11. Based on that allowance, and to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, thereby leaving allowed claim 11 as the sole pending claim.

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In view of the foregoing, this case is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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